**Civics Name**

**SOL Fast Facts Bell**

**8th Grade Civics and Economics**

**Foundations of American Government**

1 Citizen An individual with certain rights and duties who lives under a government and who, by birth or by choice, owes allegiance to that government

2 Democracy Government that is ruled by the people

3 Limited Government Government is not all-powerful and may only do those things the people give it the power to do

4 Naturalization Process of becoming a citizen when not born as one

5 Representative Government in which the people elect representatives to make laws and Democracy conduct government on their behalf

6 Unalienable rights Rights that cannot be taken away

7 Consent of the Governed The people are the source of all of the government’s power

8 Rule of Law The government and those who govern are bound by the law

9 Charters of the Virginia Rights of Englishmen were guaranteed to colonists in the New World

Company

10 Virginia Declaration Served as a model for the Bill of Rights to the US Constitution

of Rights

11 Virginia Statute of Written by Jefferson, it created a separation between church and state

Religious Freedom

12 Declaration of Written by Jefferson, it affirmed individual rights and declared the

Independence colonies free from English control

13 Articles of Confederation First constitution for the US that created a weak national government

14 Public Good Something maintained by government, paid for with taxes, and given to

citizens for their use

**Constitutional Government**

15 Constitutional Amendment Any change or addition to the Constitution, which must be proposed by

2/3 of Congress and ratified by ¾ of the states

16 Due Process of Law Constitutional protection against unfair government actions since the

government must follow all legal procedures

17 Enumerated Powers Powers of the federal government specifically mentioned in the Constitution

18 Expressed Powers Powers specifically given to Congress by the Constitution

19 Implied Powers Powers given to Congress that are **not** written in the Constitution but

suggested by the Elastic Clause in Article I

20 Reserved Powers Powers the Constitution saves for the states (10th Amendment)

21 Concurrent Powers Powers that are shared between the states and the federal government

22 Federalism Division of power between the states and the national government

23 Judicial Review Supreme Court’s power to review laws and actions from Congress and

the president to determine if they are constitutional

24 US Constitution “Supreme Law” of the land which describes our national 3 branch system

of government; considered a “living” document because of its flexibility

25 Preamble Beginning of the Constitution that identifies the purposes of government

26 Bill of Rights 1st ten amendments to the US Constitution that protect basic rights

27 1st Amendment Guarantees freedom of religion, assembly, press, petition, and speech

28 2nd Amendment Guarantees the right to bear arms

29 4th Amendment Protects citizens against an illegal search and seizure by the government

30 5th Amendment Guarantees citizens the right of due process, and protects them from

double jeopardy, eminent domain, and self-incrimination

31 6th Amendment Gives people the right to a trial by jury in a criminal case

32 8th Amendment Protects people against cruel and unusual punishment

33 13th Amendment Abolished slavery in the US

34 14th Amendment Guarantees citizenship and equal protection of the law to all those born

or naturalized in the United States

35 15th Amendment Extended suffrage to African Americans

36 16th Amendment Gives Congress the power to levy income taxes

37 19th Amendment Extended suffrage to women

38 22nd Amendment Limits a president to two full consecutive terms in office

39 24th Amendment Outlawed poll taxes

40 26th Amendment Extended suffrage to 18-year olds

41 Checks and Balances Idea in the Constitution that each of the three branches of government has

ways to limit the powers of the other two

42 Separation of Powers Idea that power is divided among legislative, executive, and judicial branches

so that no one branch may abuse its power

43 Supremacy Clause Identifies the Constitution as the authority above any state

**Legislative Branch**

44 Legislative Branch Part of the government that is responsible for making laws

45 Bicameral Having two houses or levels

46 Lobbyists People who work for interest groups and try to convince Congressmen to

vote for or against a particular bill

47 US Senate Upper house in Congress, which has 2 members for each state who serve

6 year terms

48 House of Representatives Lower house in Congress, based on population, has 435 total members

who all serve 2 year terms

49 Speaker of the House Leader of the House of Representatives, 2nd in succession for the presidency

50 Impeach To formally accuse a government official of serious wrongdoing

51 President Pro tempore Acting leader of the US Senate because the Vice President is usually busy

with Executive Branch matters

52 Majority Party Political party with more members in Congress

53 Appropriations Money collected for a specific reason

54 Constituents The people a member of Congress represents

**Executive Branch**

55 Executive Branch Part of the government responsible for enforcing the law

56 Ambassador Official representative to a foreign country

57 Bureaucracy The many departments and agencies at all levels of government

58 Cabinet President’s official group of advisors, which includes the heads of the

15 major departments

59 Executive Agencies Independent government departments responsible for specialized areas

within government

60 Executive Agreement An agreement made between the president and leader of another country

61 Pardon An act by the president or governor forgiving a person convicted of a crime

and freeing that person from serving his or her sentence

62 Amnesty Pardon granted to members of a group who have broken the law

63 Reprieve Order to delay carrying out a sentence or court order

64 Regulatory Agencies Independent government departments that protect the public by controlling

certain types of businesses and industries

65 Veto President refuses to sign a bill passed by Congress; so the bill can only

become law if overridden by a 2/3 vote of both houses of Congress

66 Electoral College Group of special voters that directly elect the president and based on a

“winner take all” system

**Judicial Branch**

67 Judicial Branch Part of government that is responsible for interpreting the law

68 Jurisdiction A court’s authority to hear and decide a case

69 Original Jurisdiction A court’s authority to hear a case for the first time

70 Appellate Jurisdiction A court’s authority to hear a case that has been appealed to it from a lower

court

71 Arraignment A hearing at which the suspect is charged and pleads guilty or not guilty

72 Civil Law Legal rules that are used to settle disputes between two parties

73 Criminal Law Legal rules that are used to determine whether or not an accused person is

guilty of a crime

74 Compensation Payment to make up for the harm caused by another person in a civil case

75 Probable Cause A good reason to believe that a suspect has been involved in a crime

76 Appeal To request a higher court to review a case if the losing side feels the original

trial was mishandled

77 Supreme Court The highest court in the US, composed of eight associate justices and one

chief justice

**People and Politics**

78 Liberal People who prefer peaceful reform and usually call for an expanded role

for government

79 Conservative People who prefer the way things are and usually want to limit the role

of government

80 Moderate People who avoid the extremes and are neither liberal nor conservative

81 Bias Favoring one point of view over another

82 Interest Groups Organizations of people with common goals and interests that try to

influence government policies and decisions

83 Nominate To choose a candidate to run for public office

84 Political Action Committee Political fund-raising organization established by a specific interest group

85 Platform A political party’s statement of its goals and positions on public issues

86 Precinct A geographic area that contains a specific number of voters

87 Propaganda Messages that try to influence people’s ideas, opinions, or actions

88 Campaign Active effort to get support for a particular candidate so that he or she may

be elected to public office

89 Gerrymandering Drawing boundaries of election districts so that one group has a political

advantage

**State Government**

90 Magistrate State court officer who can issue warrants, subpoenas, and set bail

91 Virginia General Assembly Legislature for the state, responsible for making all state laws; includes the

VA State Senate and the House of Delegates

92 Virginia Supreme Court Highest court in the state, it hears cases appealed to it from lower courts

and may declare laws and acts by the governor unconstitutional

93 Court of Appeals of Virginia Court that has appellate jurisdiction over state circuit courts

94 Circuit Court Have original jurisdiction in state felony criminal cases and civil cases

over $1,000

95 General District Court Has original jurisdiction in misdemeanor criminal cases and civil cases

involving less than $1,000

96 Governor Heads the state executive branch, and may only serve one term in Virginia

97 Juvenile Court Handles cases for minors with a judge and no jury

**Local Government**

98 City Council Legislature for the city government

99 City Manager Administrator hired by city council to manage the city and direct the work

of all city employees

100 Council Manager Plan Type of government in Virginia Beach with an elected city council and

mayor and an appointed city manager

101 Mayor Heads the local executive branch

102 Ordinance A local law

103 City Charter Plan of government for a city in Virginia that can’t be changed without

approval from the state

**Economics**

104 Choice Selecting an item or action from a set of possible alternatives

105 Consumption The using of goods and services

106 Opportunity Cost Benefit given up when scarce resources are used for one purpose instead

of another

107 Competition Rivalry between sellers of goods and services that results in a variety of

high quality goods at a lower price

108 Consumer Sovereignty People determine through the purchases they make the kinds of goods and

services that will be produced

109 Entrepreneur Person who takes a risk to produce goods and services in search of profit

110 Sole Proprietorship Form of a business with one owner who takes all the risks and earns all the

profits from the business

111 Partnership Form of a business with two or more owners who share the risks and

profits of business

112 Corporation Form of a business with many owners that is authorized to act as a

legal person

113 Profit Earnings after all expenses have been paid

114 Private Property Individuals and businesses have the right to own private property as well as

factors of production without interference from the government

115 Production Combining human, natural, and capital resources to make goods or

provide services

116 Resources Factors of production that are used to produce goods and services

117 Scarcity The idea that resources are always limited compared to the number and

variety of wants that people have and will continue to have

118 Supply Amount of a good or service producers are willing to sell at a certain price

119 Demand Amount of a good or service consumers are willing to buy at a certain price

120 Free Markets Buying and selling are allowed without interference from the government

121 Federal Reserve System Issues currency and controls interest rates to regulate the amount of money

the US has in circulation

122 Federal Communications Government agency that regulates radio and television

Commission (FCC)

123 Environmental Protection Government agency that is responsible for protecting the environment

Agency (EPA)

124 Federal Trade Commission Government agency that prevents monopolies and unfair business practices

(FTC)

125 Market Economy Economic system where forces of supply and demand control the economy

126 Command Economy Economic system where the government makes all economic decisions

127 Mixed Economy Economic system where the government and market forces share in the

making of economic decisions

128 Capital Resources Money, machines, and tools used to produce goods

129 Incentive Something that motivates

130 Market Price Equilibrium price at which buyers are willing to buy and sellers are willing to

sell

131 Tax Money the government collects from citizens and business to provide public

services

132 Revenue Money governments receive from taxes and other sources

133 Deficit When government spends more money than it collects

134 Interest Fee paid for the use of money

135 Reserve Requirement Amount of deposits banks must keep and not loan out

136 Discount Rate Special interest rate charged by the Federal Reserve on loans to banks

137 Circular Flow Continuous movement of resources, goods and services, and money between

households, businesses, and the government in an economy

138 Global Economy Exchange of goods and services among different nations worldwide